

Psychiatrist Tells Court Hate Led Sirhan to Kill

By Arthur Everett

LOS ANGELES, April 2 (AP) — Point by point, the State attempted today to destroy a defense version of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassination at the hand of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

"He killed Kennedy because he hated him," said Dr. Seymour Pollack, the prosecution's chief witness at the first-degree murder trial of the 25-year-old Arab-born Sirhan.

There was no uncontrollable explosion, Pollack testified; there was no trance, there was no split personality in which a schizophrenic mind was torn between love and hatred for the New York Senator, who was shot June 5, 1968.

Cross-Examination

But as cross-examination got under way, Pollack, a portly University of Southern California psychiatry professor, was asked by the defense:

Q. You did say Sirhan has a mental illness?

A. Yes.

Q. He is emotionally disturbed?

A. Yes.

Q. And he was at the time of the killing?

A. Yes.

Q. And he is now?

A. I believe so.

Q. You and the other doctors disagree to a great extent on the degree and kind of his mental illness.

A. That is correct.

Defense Contentions

The defense has contended in the more than 12 weeks that Sirhan has been on trial for his life that the intensely anti-Israeli defendant programmed himself subconsciously, like a computer, to kill Kennedy—through occult studies, self-induced hypnosis, written threats in private notebooks and a festering conviction that Kennedy was anti-Arab and pro-Israeli in his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Sirhan's emotions were torn between a schizophrenic love and hatred for Kennedy, the

defense claimed, and he was in a self-induced trance when he sent a bullet into the brain of the 42-year-old Senator.

Questioned on Trance

Said Pollack, under questioning by the State about the trance:

"Sirhan was exercising a good deal of reasoning ability at the time and that reasoning ability is inconsistent with an alteration of consciousness."

"I would interpret Sirhan's struggle after the shooting as his trying to escape."

As for the split personality, which characterizes schizophrenia, Pollack testified: "Sirhan talked to me about Robert Kennedy as if he both loved and hated Kennedy at the same time. But I recognized that he didn't both love and hate Kennedy."

"He had loved Sen. Kennedy. He had loved him very strongly. Then, he no longer loved him. He hated him and wanted him dead. It wasn't both love and hatred. His love had turned to 'hatred.'"